

WE CLAIM:

1. A pipe clamp comprising:
²² a strap adapted to surround a pipe, the strap including first and second opposing
^{24/26} ends separated by a gap;
²⁸ a fastener that extends across the gap for tightening or loosening the clamp by
narrowing or widening the gap between the first and second opposing ends of the strap;
the first opposing end including at least one projection; and
the second opposing end defining at least one recess for receiving the projection
when the clamp is tightened.
2. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein the first opposing end includes two
projections, and the second opposing end includes two recesses.
3. The pipe clamp of claim 2, wherein the projections include truncated triangular
shapes.
4. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein the strap includes an increased diameter
portion and a reduced diameter portion, the reduced diameter portion and the increased
diameter portion being separated by a step.
5. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein the fastener includes a bolt having a base
end and a threaded end, wherein the clamp includes a sleeve connected to the second
⁴⁶ opposing end of the strap, wherein the base end of the bolt is connected to the first
opposing end of the strap, and wherein the threaded end of the bolt extends through the
sleeve.
6. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein the strap includes metal.

7. The pipe clamp of claim 6, wherein the metal is stainless steel or aluminized steel.

8. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein the strap has a width less than 2 inches.

9. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein the strap has a wall thickness in the range of .065 to .105 inches.

10. A pipe clamp comprising:

a strap adapted to surround a pipe, the strap including first and second opposing ends separated by a gap;

a fastener that extends across the gap for tightening or loosening the clamp by narrowing or widening the gap between the first and second opposing ends of the strap;

the first opposing end including a first portion;

the second opposing end including a second portion; and

the first and second portions being configured to extend circumferentially past one another when the clamp is tightened while remaining substantially within a cylindrical boundary defined by a wall thickness of the strap.

11. The pipe clamp of claim 10, wherein the fastener includes a bolt having a base end and a threaded end, wherein the clamp includes a sleeve connected to the second opposing end of the strap, wherein the base end of the bolt is connected to the first opposing end of the strap, and wherein the threaded end of the bolt extends through the sleeve.

12. The pipe clamp of claim 10, wherein the strap includes metal.

Sub A2 13. The pipe clamp of claim 10, wherein the metal is stainless steel or aluminized steel.

14. The pipe clamp of claim 10, wherein the strap has a width less than 2 inches.

sub 15. The pipe clamp of claim 10, wherein the strap has a wall thickness in the range of .065 to .105 inches.

16. A pipe clamp comprising:

a metal strap including first and second opposing ends separated by a gap;

a bolt that extends across the gap for tightening or loosening the clamp by narrowing or widening the gap between the first and second opposing ends of the strap, the bolt having a base end connected to the first opposing end;

a sleeve connected to the second opposing end for receiving a free end of the bolt; and

the first and second ends of the strap being configured to intermesh when the clamp is tightened.

17. The pipe clamp of claim 16, wherein the first and second opposing ends include circumferential teeth having truncated triangular shapes.

18. The pipe clamp of claim 17, wherein the strap has a width less than 2 inches.

19. The pipe clamp of claim 18, wherein the strap has a wall thickness in the range of .065 to .105 inches.

20. The pipe clamp of claim 19, wherein the strap includes stainless steel or aluminized steel.

21. The pipe clamp of claim 5, wherein the first opposing end includes two projections, and the second opposing end includes two recesses.

22. The pipe clamp of claim 21, wherein the projections include truncated triangular shapes.

23. The pipe clamp of claim 1, wherein at least one projection ^{is} has a truncated triangular shape.

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